

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

SECSTATE WASHDC 4477

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PASS ALSO USDA/FAS WASHDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, VE

REF: SAN JOSE 2292

1. VENEZUELA'S REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED BEEF INCREASING DUE GREATLY TO PERSISTENT, SEVERE DROUGHT. ESTIMATED THAT NEED FOR BEEF COULD EASILY EXCEED 50 MILLION POUNDS THIS YEAR. HOWEVER WHETHER VENEZUELA CAN ABSORB THIS AMOUNT FROM COSTA RICA IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE DUE TO UNPREDICTABLE AND ILLEGAL (BUT TOLERATED) FLOW OF LIVE CATTLE FROM COLOMBIA. FELT THAT THIS MOVEMENT HAS DECLINED SOME BECAUSE OF TIGHTER CATTLE SUPPLIES IN COLOMBIA.

2. IN ADDITION TO LIVE CATTLE IMPORTS, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORT VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING PURCHASE BEEF FROM COLOMBIA TO "..... GUARANTEE THE NATIONAL (VENEZUELAN) CONSUMER THE EXISTENCE OF PRODUCT IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY AND AT A FAIR PRICE." APARENT FROM ARTICLES THAT AMOUNT ACTUALLY IMPORTED WILL DEPEND UPON

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VENEZUELA'S REQUIREMENTS, IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

3. FUTURE OF COSTA RICA AS LONG-RANGE MEAT SUPPLIER TO VENEZUELA
THUS SEEN AS BEING DEPENDENT UPON LOCAL PRODUCTION AND POSSIBLE
PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES -- NOT UPON SPECIAL
POLITICAL AGREEMENT. POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AS VIEWED FROM THIS
END WOULD BE THAT COSTA RICA IS COZYING UP TO VENEZUELA BECAUSE OF
ITS IMPORTANCE AS A SUPPLIER OF PETROLEUM AND BECAUSE OF PER-
CEIVED POLITICAL TIES BETWEEN PARTIES IN POWER IN EACH COUNTRY.
MCCLINTOCK

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